

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Thursday, April 4, 2019
10:35 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 257, HOUSE DRAFT 2, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

House Bill 257, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 1 proposes to authorize the use of private lands for 'Ohana Zones and extends the sunset dates for homeless emergency medical programs. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The Department notes that unencumbered or unleased lands held by the Department are often unsuitable for 'ohana zone purposes due to the lack of infrastructure, remote location, size of the parcel or a combination all three. The Department further notes that private land owners, including churches and non-profits have offered the use of their lands, and this measure would allow the use of 'ohana zone funds for use on those properties. The Department notes that other agencies have expressed concern that building built using state funds be used for the purpose for which they were built. The Department feels the current language adequately addresses these concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

April 4, 2019

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW, Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

SUBJECT: **HB 257 HD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Thursday, April 4, 2019, 10:35 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

POSITION: The Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness supports this bill, and appreciates the amendments of the Senate Committees on Human Services and Housing to require a written agreement between a state or county agency private land owner rather than a memorandum of understanding, and requiring that private lands have basic existing infrastructure prior to being used as an ohana zone.

The Coordinator seeks clarification regarding the language on page 3, lines 4-7, which states any structure built with public funds shall be temporary or may be moved, and notes that temporary encampments are inconsistent with the State's housing-focused approach to address homelessness.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to authorize the use of private lands for the Ohana Zones pilot program and extend the Ohana Zones pilot program to June 30, 2023. The bill also extends the sunset dates of the Emergency Department Homelessness Assessment and Medical Respite pilot programs to June 30, 2020.

In regard to the Ohana Zone pilot program, the Coordinator is supportive of additional efforts to address homelessness and, in particular, to expand the availability of permanent supportive housing resources. A report regarding the current allocation of Ohana Zone funds was submitted to the legislature in December 2018, and can be found online at:

http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/2019-HRS-346-3819_Report-Re-HICH-Act-209-2018-Re-Ohana-Zone-Medical-Pilots.pdf. The extension of the sunset date for the Ohana Zones pilot program will allow for a full three-year evaluation of programs funded through the pilot.

In regard to the Emergency Department Homelessness Assessment and Medical Respite pilot program, the Coordinator supports extending the sunset date of the programs by one year to avoid the lapse of non-recurring funds appropriated by Act 209, SLH 2018. If the sunset date for the pilot programs are not extended, there will not be enough time for the provider to implement the pilots and DHS will be unable to sufficiently evaluate the effectiveness of the programs and make recommendations to continue, modify, or terminate either program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Paula Yoshioka

From: Paula Yoshioka, Vice President, Government Relations and External Affairs, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: April 2, 2019

Hrg: Senate Committee on Committee on Ways and Means Decision Making; Thursday, April 4, 2019 at 10:35 a.m. in Room 211

Re: Strong Support for H.B. 257, H.D. 2, S.D.1, Relating to Homelessness

The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a not-for-profit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, 66 health care centers and labs, and more than 1,600 physicians statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of H.B. 257, H.D.2, S.D.1, which provides for a no cost extension for the emergency department (ED) assessment and medical respite pilot programs currently being administered through Care Coordination at The Queen's Medical Center – Punchbowl. Last year, the 2018 Legislature passed Act 209, which established these pilot programs. Preliminary data has demonstrated their success in reducing strain on our health care system; our request for an extension to June 30, 2020 is to demonstrate the full value of these pilots.

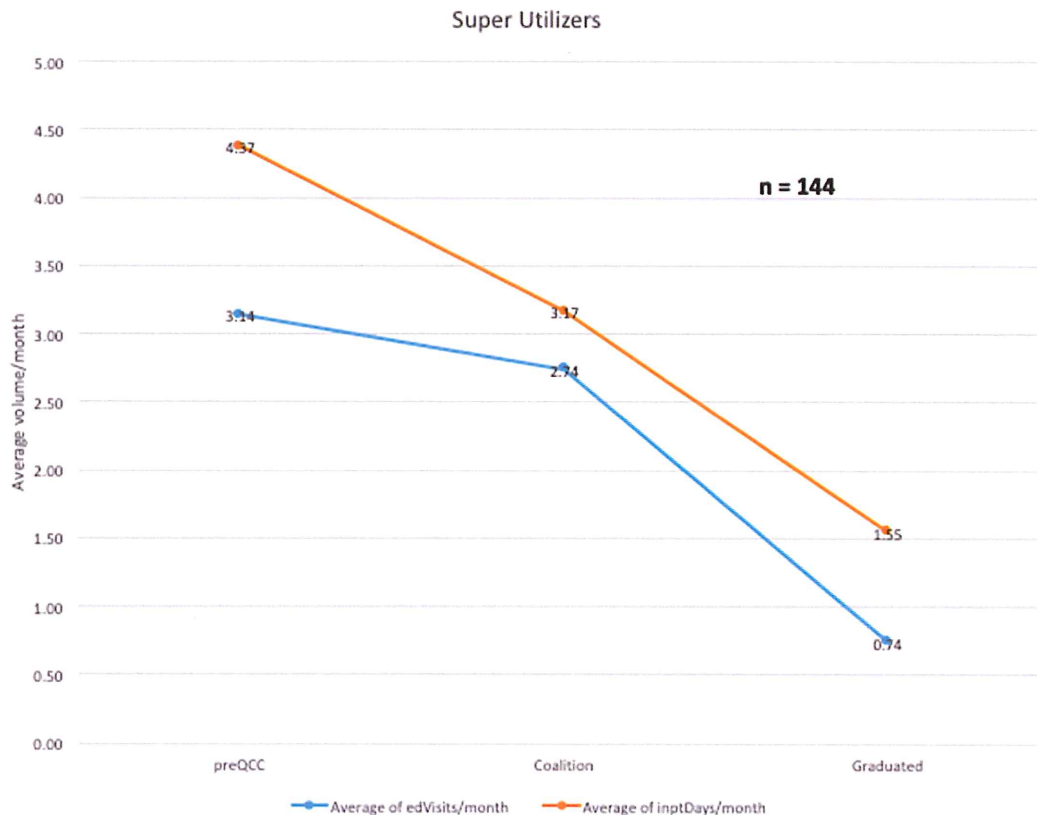
Hawai'i has the highest per capita rate of homelessness in the nation, with roughly 5,000 homeless individuals heavily distributed on Oahu and concentrated in Honolulu and on the Waianae Coast.^{1,2} As an island state, our geographical and isolated position presents unique challenges in serving a homeless population that is densely concentrated. As the primary health system serving this population, by focusing resources for maximum access to this population, we are able to see over 400 unique homeless patients per month and provide them with the care they need.

¹ The Department of Housing and Urban Development, "The 2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress", December 2017

² State of Hawaii, Homeless Point-in-Time Count, January 22, 2017

The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.

The ED assessment pilot program is currently operating through the Queen's Care Coalition (QCC). The QCC identifies homeless patients with the highest utilization of emergency services and works aggressively to provide care and the right resources. The QCC navigates approximately 225 homeless patients annually, providing them coordinated care and connecting them to community resources such as supportive housing services, social services, behavioral health, etc. to address underlying issues that may stem from their unique circumstances.



Since the start of the QCC in January 2018, the graph (above) illustrates a significant decrease in average volume per month by super utilizers coming to the Queen's Emergency Department. The chart shows utilization per month, per super utilizer three months pre-intervention and three months post-intervention. As we continue to develop and deploy the QCC Team, there is the potential for efforts to be replicated on the neighbor islands for greatest reach and reduced costs and strain on the health care system. An upwards of 64% of all hospital visits by the homeless are at Queen's, where care is delivered at partial or no reimbursement. High utilization of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Emergency Department (ED) resources by homeless individuals also impacts Hawaii's Medicaid program.

Queen's is proud to partner with to the Institute for Human Services on Tutu Bert's House and Ka Uka Respite House. Both of these facilities provide a stable and transitional supervised environment for homeless patients who have been discharged from Queen's and may need

The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.

additional time to heal in a more appropriate level of care setting. The need for Medical Respite care for individuals experiencing homelessness is a critical part of the continuum of care for this population. Once individuals experiencing homelessness are ready for discharge from a hospital, many times they do not have a place to go to complete their post-acute care recover. Medical Respite facilities not only provide emergency shelter, they also serve as a “place of healing”. Eligible guests are able to recover from acute conditions of medical, surgical or psychiatric nature.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support.

HB-257-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 3:25:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2019 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HB257. Many in the homeless population can be helped if there are enough services to assist them.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

April 3, 2019

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 257 HD2 SD1 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: April 4, 2019, 10:35 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill and supports the amendments to Act 209 (Session Laws of Hawaii 2018) that extend the Ohana Zones Pilot program to June 30, 2022, and the Emergency Department Homelessness Assessment Pilot program and the Medical Respite pilot program to June 30, 2020. Extension of these pilot programs are important to allow enough time for implementation and evaluation.

DHS appreciates that the community and legislature are trying to figure out a rapid way to address the needs of individuals and families who are living in unsheltered conditions, and how to further incorporate private landowners who are interested in being part of the solution. DHS appreciates the amendments of Senate Committees on Human Services and Housing:

- (1) Requiring a written agreement between a state or county agency and private land owner rather than requiring a memorandum of understanding between a private land owner and a state or county agency to use private land as an ohana zone, and specifying the requirements of the written agreement;
- (2) Requiring that private lands have basic existing infrastructure prior to being used as an ohana zone;

- (3) Specifying that if the private land ceases to be used for an ohana zone or low-income housing before the end of the time specified in the written agreement, the state agency may move the structure off the private land to another location of its choosing;
- (4) Requiring the ohana zone pilot program to allow for off-the-grid infrastructure technologies that can provide drinking water, electricity, and process sewage without existing infrastructure; and
- (5) Extending the deadline for the Department of Human Services to implement the ohana zones pilot project, including extending the sunset date of the project.

However, DHS is concerned that movable and temporary structures (see Section 1 (c)(2)(B) -(C), page 3, lines 4-18) may result in encampments and tent cities which we do not support. We do support exploration of use of movable modular and smart micro home designs.

DHS also requests an amendment to Section 1, (c)(3), (see page 3, line 19 – page 4, line 2), to change "shall" to "may" as DHS, while interested in incorporating new and smart technologies, has no expertise in the field and would have to work with County planning departments and utilities, or engage consultants to guide us through that process. Also, DHS requests further clarification of the Legislature's intent regarding the public investment in these off-the-grid technologies.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the measure authorizes the use of private lands for the ohana zones pilot program. Provides additional time for the implementation of the ohana zones pilot program to June 30, 2023. Extends the emergency department homelessness assessment pilot program and the medical respite pilot program to June 30, 2020. Effective 7/1/2030. (SD1)

The state's framework to address homelessness through Housing First principles is based upon the notion of placement in safe and affordable permanent housing as soon as possible. DHS supports investing in permanent housing solutions that are sustainable, safe, healthy, and near to existing transportation, education, health, and economic infrastructure; these are all significant aspects to ending homelessness for individuals and families currently experiencing it.

DHS currently delivers homeless services through the purchase of services provided by community based non-profit organizations statewide. DHS is currently not a brick and mortar

agency and does not have expertise or experience with constructing homes, construction financing, community design, or infrastructure planning; DHS will require additional time to develop the administrative infrastructure to acquire the subject matter expertise and requisite administrative resources to embark on the endeavor.

DHS Homeless Programs Office (HPO) has executed contracts for the emergency homelessness assessment pilot and the medical respite pilot with the identified provider effective on or about March 1, 2019. The proposed expiration date of June 30, 2020 for the emergency department homelessness assessment pilot program and medical respite pilot program will be beneficial as additional time is needed for the pilots to become fully operational. Accordingly, the due dates for the reports will also benefit from an extension and provide more accurate data. HPO has included in its contract the ability to continue services with a no cost extension of unexpended funds in anticipation of an amendment to Act 2019, SLH 2018. The extension should also apply to the report dates.

At this time, DHS does not anticipate the need for additional appropriations at this time, though, with these additional amendments we do anticipate contract review may require additional staff resources at the Department of the Attorney General to assist with preparing a lease or other agreements with the land owners for use of the land during the pilot period.

Also, we do anticipate future appropriations may be required if new technologies or structures need to be removed from the private property.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

LATE

HB-257-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2019 5:03:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2019 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrick F. Hurney	Testifying for Habitat for Humanity Hawaii Island, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HB257!

Currently, NLIHC RATED Hawaii as the highest rate in the USA of Housing Wage at \$32.75 per hour in order to afford fair market rent. Our local families are pricing out of the housing market. We need to combat the affordable housing crisis now!

Mahalo

Patrick Hurney

LATE

HB-257-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2019 5:07:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2019 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Debra Ravey	Testifying for ACCESS Capabilities Inc	Support	No

Comments:

Currently, NLIHC RATED Hawaii as the highest rate in the USA of Housing Wage at \$32.75 per hour in order to afford fair market rent. Our local families are pricing out of the housing market. We need to combat the affordable housing crisis now!

Please take action to address our housing affordability crisis. Pass HB257.

Mahalo

Debra Ravey, Executive Director